

**TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE OF THE
CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

MARCH 12, 2010

Submitted by Bonnie B. Gauthier, Hebrew Health Care, West Hartford, CT

**Regarding Raised Bill No. 428
An Act Concerning Revisions to the Public Health Related Statutes**

My name is Bonnie Gauthier and I am the President and CEO of Hebrew Health Care in West Hartford, CT. Hebrew Health Care has a 109-year history of providing services to the aging of the Greater Hartford Community and offers a constellation of services across the care continuum, including specialty hospital services under our Chronic Disease Hospital License at the Hospital at Hebrew Health Care, also in West Hartford.

I am here today to speak in support of a particular section of **Raised Bill 428**, specifically **Section 53 (h)**, which concerns psychiatric services provided in the chronic disease hospital setting. This section will correct an inconsistency between existing chronic disease hospital license requirements and current Medicare participation regulations, and will thus enable chronic disease hospital providers with separate Medicare certified psychiatric units to provide optimal services to their patients.

At the Hospital at Hebrew Health Care, we serve more than 300 geriatric patients each year with psychiatric diagnoses and multiple medical co-morbidities, many of whom are admitted to our hospital directly from skilled nursing facilities across our state. This legislation will assure that we will be able to serve this frail elderly population optimally in our special Medicare-certified psychiatric unit within our Chronic Disease Hospital; and I urge you to support this section of Raised Bill 428 in your deliberations on the entire bill.

Thank you.